

Claims:

1. An immunogenic conjugate comprising at least one  
vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) peptide moiety  
5 coupled to a carrier.
2. A conjugate according to claim 2 for use in  
therapy or prophylaxis.
- 10 3. A conjugate as claimed in either one of claims 1  
or 2 for combatting tumours and tumour metastasis.
4. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding  
claims wherein said VEGF peptide moiety comprises an  
15 amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology with  
the whole or a section of a native VEGF sequence.
5. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said  
section of a native VEGF sequence is a section of 8 to  
20 100 amino acids.
6. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said  
section of a native VEGF sequence is a section of 12 to  
25 25 amino acids.
7. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said  
degree of homology is with a section of a native VEGF  
sequence overlapping, abutting or adjacent a  
glycosylation site.  
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8. A conjugate as claimed in claim 7 wherein said  
section includes at least 12 of the first 16 amino acid  
residues from said glycosylation site in the N-terminal  
direction.  
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9. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding  
claims wherein the VEGF peptide moiety comprises an

oligopeptide comprising at least part of SEQ ID No. 1:  
TEESNITMQI MRIKPHQGQH IGEMSFLQHN.

10. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding  
5 claims wherein the VEGF peptide moiety comprises an  
oligopeptide of formula:

$$(T)_a(M)_b(Q)_c(I)_d\text{MRIKPHQGQ}(H)_e(I)_f(G)_g(E)_h(M)_i(S)_j(F)_k(L)_l(Q)_m$$

10 where:

- a to m are each 0 or 1
- but a to c and f to m may not be 1 unless the  
15 sequence so created corresponds to a sequence in  
SEQ ID No.1
- e to g are 1

11. A conjugate as claimed in claim 10 wherein e to j  
are 1.

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12. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding  
claims wherein said VEGF peptide moiety is coupled via  
its N-terminal end to the carrier.

25 13. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding  
claims where said carrier is selected from the group  
consisting of the purified protein derivative of  
tuberculin, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, keyhole  
limpet haemocyanin, glutathione S-transferase and  
30 derivatives thereof.

14. The use of an immunogenic conjugate as claimed in  
any one of claims 1 to 13 comprising at least one  
vascular endothelial growth factor peptide moiety  
35 coupled to a carrier for the manufacture of a medicament  
for use in combatting tumours.

15. A vascular endothelial growth factor derivative comprising at least one VEGF peptide moiety coupled to a peptide carrier-binding moiety.

16. A nucleic acid molecule coding for a vascular endothelial growth factor derivative comprising at least one VEGF peptide moiety coupled to a peptide carrier-binding moiety according to claim 15, and nucleic acid molecules with sequences complementary thereto.

17. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a conjugate according to any one of claims 1 to 13 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

19. A method of combatting tumours in a human or non-human subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a conjugate as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

20. A method for achieving maximal blockade of VEGF in a human or non-human subject comparable to or exceeding that achieved by chemo- or radiotherapy, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a VEGF conjugate as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13.